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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

WATH

(North Riding of Yorkshire)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1971

W A T H R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

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Chairman of the Council:

Councillor F. S. Foster, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor S. R. Fryer

Members of the Housing, Planning and Health Committee:

Councillor J. Brocklebank, C.B.E., J.P., (Chairman)

" T. Barker
" F. L. Dawney
" F. S. Foster
" G. Frank,
" S.R. Fryer
" J. F. Graham
" T. L. Stubbs
" G. Tasker
" Mrs. I.M.E. Weatherhead
" J. C. Webster

Officers of the Council:

Clerk of the Council:

W. C. Eden, 7, Park Street, Ripon. Tel: Ripon 3576.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. Gray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Manor Road, Easingwold.
Tel: Easingwold 21324.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

M. D. Hey, M.A.P.H.I., 7, Park Street, Ripon.
Tel: Ripon 3576.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1971.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Wath Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit my Annual Report for 1971.

The opportunity is taken to set out the statistical table in the form received from the Registrar General. In due course, when amalgamation of authorities takes place, comparison will be easily made. There are no particular points in these figures to which I would draw your attention.

Mention was made in my last Annual Report on the presence of nitrates in water derived from boreholes into the sandstone in the south-eastern part of the district. The levels fell from a high point in the Spring of 1971 to low levels later in the year, only to bound up again in March, 1972, almost reaching levels at which, according to World Health Organisation standards, an alternative supply of water to young babies becomes obligatory to avoid the possibility of causing methaemoglobanaemia. This is a problem not unique to this area and with the greater awareness of the public to the pollution of the environment, this is one aspect which will require action, and which will entail the expenditure of money.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GRAY,

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Description

The Rural District of Wath is situate on the extreme South-West corner of the North Riding of Yorkshire and is on the borders of the West Riding. It lies in the Vale of York and is extremely flat. The area is predominantly agricultural in character, the land being of excellent quality.

The area is bounded on the East by the River Swale and on the West by the River Ure. Neighbouring authorities are the Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural District Council, Bedale Rural District Council, Thirsk Rural District Council and Easingwold Rural District Council.

Statistics

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid-1971)	..	2330
Number of dwellinghouses in the District.	a. Privately Owned..	583
	b. Council Houses ..	145
	c. Service Married Quarters	48
Area in acres		17,007
Number of Parishes		11
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1971		£97,023
Estimated product of a Penny Rate as at 1st April, 1971		£876

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

One notification was received in 1971, a case of Whooping Cough.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Local authority area			England and Wales (Total)		Local authority area	England and Wales
	Males	Females	Total				
Estimated mid-year home population	-	-	2,330	48,815,000		-	-
Live births	17	12	29	783,165	Live birth rates, etc. Livebirths per 1,000 home population (crude rate) Area comparability factor Local adjusted rate Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	12.4	16.0
Total	16	11	27	717,491		1.11	1.00
Legitimate	1	1	2	65,674		13.8	16.0
Illegitimate						.86	1.00
						7	8
Stillbirths	-	-	-	9,898	Stillbirth rate Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	-	12
Total	-	-	-	8,826			
Legitimate	-	-	-	1,072			
Total live and stillbirths	17	12	29	793,063			
Total	16	11	27	726,317			
Legitimate	1	1	2	66,746			
Illegitimate							

VITAL STATISTICS (Continued)

	Local authority area			England and Wales (Total)		Local authority area	England and Wales
	Males	Females	Total				
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age							
Total	-	-	-	13,726	Infant mortality rates	-	18
Legitimate	-	-	-	12,140	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	-	17
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,586	Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	24
Deaths under 4 weeks of age							
Total	-	-	-	9,113	Neonatal mortality rate		12
Legitimate	-	-	-	8,121	Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	-	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	992			
Deaths under 1 week of age							
Total	-	-	-	7,750	Early neonatal mortality rate		10
Legitimate	-	-	-	6,903	Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	-	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	847	Perinatal mortality rate		22
					Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	-	
Deaths - all ages	14	7	21	567,345	Deaths rates, etc. - all ages		
					Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	9.0	11.6
					Area comparability factor	1.71	1.00
					Local adjusted rate	15.4	11.6
					Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.33	1.00

CAUSES OF DEATH

Registrar General's Return

<u>Diseases</u>	M	F	1971 Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms	2	1	3
Anaemias	-	1	1
Ishaemic Heart disease	3	1	4
Other forms of heart disease	1	-	1
Cerebrovascular disease	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	-	3
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1	2
Total all causes			14 7 21
Total deaths - all causes - 1970			11 7 18

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Day to day administration of the health service in the areas of the Rural District Councils of Easingwold, Flaxton, Thirsk and Wath is centred at Easingwold. At the end of the year the Offices were moved to the new Health Centre, Cratmill Lane, Easingwold. It is anticipated that in April 1974 these premises will be taken over, together with the service carried out from there, by the new Area Health Board.

The area has a population of 62,720, largely urban and suburban where adjacent to the City of York, but rural in the remaining northern part.

Your Medical Officer holds appointments with the four district councils as Medical Officer of Health, and with the County Council in duties with the Health and Education services.

Laboratory facilities. The public health laboratories at Northallerton which has served the North Riding for so long is now closed, although the laboratory at Northallerton, under the auspices of the hospital authority still carry out routine examination of milk and water samples. Examination of specimens taken in investigation of infectious diseases will be carried out either at the hospital laboratory at York, or at one of the other of the remaining Public Health Laboratories.

Dental Service. The vacancy of a school dental officer mentioned in my last report has been filled and the area is now served by one full-time and one part-time dentist, work is carried out in three dental surgeries in schools, and at Thirsk Clinic. Additionally a very well equipped mobile caravan is used.

Maternity and Child Welfare. Live births in the area at 932 have remained virtually unchanged over the past 3 years, and of these births only 53 were domiciliary, a further fall to half the previous years home confinements. Illegitimate births were 36 representing 3.6% which compares with approximately 8% for England and Wales. There was an excess of infant deaths in the Southern part of the area, largely due to a rise in premature births, but taking the area as a whole infant mortality about exactly matches that for the County as a whole.

Attendances at County Council Infant Welfare Clinics remained almost unchanged from the previous year. An encouraging growth in the number of mothers attending mothercraft and relaxation classes has occurred and only the lack of suitable premises available preventing an even more rapid expansion of this educative effort.

Nursing Service. The following tables show staff employed at the year end.

	Full time	Part time
Health Visitors.....	9	2
Generalised duties.....	7	2
Combined duties (district nurse-midwife).....	7	-
Midwifery only.....	-	-
Home Nursing only.....	2	-

One full time combined duties nurse is appointed but has not yet taken up duty. The official policy of the Department of Health & Social Services has been for some time to foster the attachment of nurses to general practitioners and considerable progress has been made in this direction. Practices in which 20 practitioners work have firm attachment arrangements involving 16 nurses, but further progress would seem to be impossible until the re-organisation of boundaries takes place.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The only change in recommendation for immunisation has been the abandonment of smallpox vaccination as a routine procedure. It is now felt that as the number of cases of smallpox is rapidly declining in the world, and the number of infected areas decreasing due to the protective effect of vaccination in these areas, the chances of cases being imported into this country is bound to continue to decline. Provided travellers abroad, and immigrants are properly protected, as well as those whose duties may entail contact with any case e.g. doctors, nurses, ambulance staff etc., the spread of disease can be prevented by selected vaccination of contacts here. Smallpox vaccination is never without a slight risk, and less morbidity and mortality will occur by the abandonment of routine vaccination.

The following table shows completed courses of immunisation compared with 1970 in persons under the age of 16.

	1970		1971	
	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster
Diphtheria	1025	934	965	956
Whooping cough	1025	932	965	195
Tetanus	1364	1009	1260	1260
Poliomyelitis	1046	807	951	1037
Measles	1310	-	1003	
Rubella (girls only)	471	-	636	

Domestic Help Service.

This service became the responsibility of the new Social Services Department on 1st April, 1971, but continues to be operated on an agency basis at the present time by this department. There was again an increase both in number of hours worked from 41,820 to 48,030 and in the cases helped from 223 to 247. The majority of these cases are elderly. Twenty seven of the recipients paid the standard charge of 38p per hour, the remainder being assessed according to means, many of these being free.

Chiropody.

One full time and one part time chiropodists are employed. 654 persons given treatment at one or other clinic, and 138 people received domiciliary treatment. 3192 treatments were given during the year. The majority of cases are elderly people over the age of 65 and a charge of 10p per treatment is normally made. At least two full time chiropodists are required, and better premises to provide a reasonable service.

Care and After Care.

The County Council provides many forms of assistance aimed at prevention of illness or to encourage recovery. Items of nursing equipment wheel chairs, lifting devices, ripple beds etc., are provided on temporary loan. Each year an increasing sum is spent on the provision of incontinent pads both for elderly people and children who are mentally retarded or suffering from spina bifida.

Where items of equipment are required for a prolonged period the responsibility for supply becomes that of the social services department or the Ministry of Pensions.

Family Planning.

This is now a direct County Council service and has operated in much the same way as it was functioning in previous years under the Family Planning Association. Clinics are held at Huntington and Thirsk, and members have continued to attend the F.P.A. clinic at York. It is hoped to extend the service, and the new Health Centre at Easingwold is in mind for sessions.

Routine Screening.

The Guthrie test is carried out on all babies, either in hospital prior to discharge or at home soon afterwards. It may be that in the future the test applied will be able to detect conditions other than phenylketonuria.

Cervical cytology is carried out by family doctors at sessions of the Family Planning Clinic, and at special sessions at our major clinics.

Children in school are seen annually by a nurse with apparatus to test vision and hearing and the service brings forward a number of ~~baby~~ cases of visual or auditory defect which would not otherwise be detected until the routine medical examination which is held at less frequent intervals. The health visiting staff continue to play an important part in following the progress of all children, paying particular attention to those with a history which places them at risk of abnormal development, and the assessment of hearing is carried out during the first year of life.

Pre-school Children.

Responsibility for the premises of the Nursery and Child Minder Act now lies with the department of Social Services but has been carried out during the year by our staff.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC
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HEALTH INSPECTOR
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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for 1971

To the Chairman and Members of the Wath Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report of the year 1971.

I would again like to thank all members of the Council and staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M.D. HEY

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

PARISHES AND POPULATION DENSITY

The following table sets out the acreage, the number of dwellinghouses, and the estimated population of each parish in the area.

The number of houses includes a number of houses on which there are Closing Orders or Undertakings made under the Housing Acts and which are unoccupied. It also includes 48 married quarters at Dishforth R.A.F. Camp.

The population of 2330 is estimated by the Registrar General for mid-1971 and this gives a density of 3.00 persons per dwelling.

Parish	Acreage	Number of Houses	Estimated Population
Asenby	1179	74	210
Baldersby	1831	89	220
Cundall-with-Leckby	2052	35	160
Dishforth	1765	161	660
Hutton Conyers	3212	60	170
Marton-le-Moor	1679	42	120
Melmerby	1139	104	250
Middleton Quernhow	763	25	70
Norton Conyers	1042	15	40
Rainton-with-Newby	1578	103	270
Wath	767	67	160
	17007	775	2330

WATER SUPPLIES

The statutory water undertakers in the area are the Claro Water Board and the Ryedale Joint Water Board.

Several commercial premises along the A.1 and numerous farms and isolated dwellings are not connected to the public supply but have their own borehole supplies. In all, 706 houses are connected to a public supply and 69 have no connection.

Details for the public water supplies for the year 1971 are as follows :-

Asenby:

Water Undertakers: Ryedale Joint Water Board
Number of dwellings connected to supply 68

Baldersby: (excluding Baldersby St. James)

Water Undertakers: Claro Water Board
Source of Supply: Baldersby St. James Borehole
Number of dwellings connected to supply 60

Cundall:

Water Undertakers: Claro Water Board
Source of Supply: Ryedale Joint Water Board
Number of dwellings connected to supply 35

Dishforth: (excluding Camp)

Water Undertakers:	Claro Water Board	
Source of Supply:	Baldersby St. James Borehole - Melmerby Springs (used in emergency)	
Number of dwellings connected to supply:		113

Dishforth Camp:

Water Undertakers:	Ryedale Joint Water Board	
Number of dwellings connected to supply:		48

Hutton Conyers:

Water Undertakers:	Claro Water Board	
Source of Supply:	Lumley Moor Reservoir	
Number of dwellings connected to supply:		37

Marton-le-Moor:

Water Undertakers:	Claro Water Board	
Source of Supply (1):	Marton-le-Moor Borehole	
Number of dwellings connected to supply:		36

Source of Supply (2):	Lumley Moor Reservoir	
Number of dwellings connected to supply:		6

Melmerby:

Water Undertakers:	Claro Water Board	
Source of Supply:	Baldersby St. James Borehole Melmerby Springs (used in emergencies)	
Number of dwellings connected to supply:		104

Norton Conyers:

Water Undertakers:	Claro Water Board	
Source of Supply:	Lumley Moor Reservoir	
Number of dwellings connected to supply:		15

Rainton and Baldersby St. James:

Water Undertakers:	Claro Water Board	
Source of Supply:	Baldersby St. James Borehole Melmerby Springs (used in emergencies)	
Number of dwellings connected to supply:		117

Wath:

Water Undertakers:	Claro Water Board	
Source of Supply:	Lumley Moor Reservoir Borehole at Wath available for emergency use	
Number of dwellings connected to supply:		67

10 samples for bacterial examination were taken from the public supplies, all of which were satisfactory.

4 samples, for bacteriological examination, were taken from private supplies, all of which were satisfactory.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The public sewage disposal situation in the villages is, as follows :-

Asenby - Disposal Works in operation since 1964. Screen, 2 No. horizontal flow settlement tanks, filter bed, 2 No. humus tanks. Combined sewerage system. Approximately 90% of sewage pumped to Works from 1 No. pumping station. Design capacity 4,500 g.p.d. The works are approximately 25% overloaded and residential development within the village restricted because of this.

Baldersby - Disposal Works in operation since 1961. Screen, 2 No. horizontal flow settlement tanks, filter bed, 2 No. humus tanks. Designed for foul sewage only. Sewage pumped at Works. Design capacity 7,500 g.p.d.

Baldersby St. James - All properties connected to the sewer have septic tanks and the effluent passes through a small sedimentation tank before discharge to the River Swale.

Cundall - Disposal Works in operation since 1968. Septic tank, filter bed, humus tank. Designed for foul sewage only. Approximately 14% of sewage pumped to Works from 1 No. pumping station. Sewage pumped at Works. Design capacity 8,000 g.p.d.

Dishforth - Disposal Works in operation since 1966. Screen, upward flow settlement tank, filter bed, 2 No. humus tanks. Designed for foul sewage only. Gravity system throughout. Design capacity 14,000 g.p.d.

Hutton Conyers - Untreated sewage to stream. During the year the Council accepted a tender of £28,957-23 for a sewerage scheme for the village with a pumping main to discharge the sewage into the Ripon City Sewerage System. Work had not started at the end of the year.

Marton-le-Moor - The sewage is passed through two Council-owned settlement tanks before being discharged through a system of pipework to Cundall Beck.

Melmerby and Wath - Disposal Works in operation since 1955. Screen, 2 No. horizontal flow settlement tanks, 2 No. filter beds, 2 No. humus tanks. Combined sewerage system. Sewage pumped at Works. Design capacity 13,500 g.p.d.

Middleton Quernhow - Sewage drains to a Council-owned septic tank. The Council's proposals for a Mains Drainage Scheme and Disposal Works to serve the 14 houses within the village had to be postponed for financial reasons.

Rainton - Disposal Works in operation since 1959, extended 1968. Screen, 3 No. horizontal flow settlement tanks, 2 No. filter beds, 3 No. humus tanks. Sewage pumped at Works. Designed for foul sewage only. Design capacity 24,000 g.p.d.

1 effluent sample was taken from the Asenby sewage disposal works, by the Yorkshire River Authority, and was classified as "good".

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of household refuse is let out to contract. Collection takes place on a fortnightly frequency with the exception of 48 married quarters at Dishforth R.A.F. Station which receive a weekly collection. The larger catering establishments also receive a weekly collection of refuse. Collection of refuse from the Police Training Centre and M.O.D. Dishforth is carried out twice a week. Bulky items of household refuse are collected free, and a number of residents have taken advantage of this special service.

Disposal is by tipping in the Hutton Conyers parish at King Quarry. An earth moving machine was hired on one or two days each week to level out and cover over the refuse with soil.

PUBLIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967.

During the year action was taken in respect of 3 abandoned vehicles, as shown in the table below :-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Classifi- cation</u>	<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Result</u>
Motor Scooter	Baldersby Roundabout	Runner	Statutory	Sold by R.D.C.
Saloon Car	Sinderby House, Rainton	Wreck	Informal	Removed before action taken.
Van	Melmerby	Wreck	Statutory	Disposed of by R.D.C.

In all possible cases the Council levied the charges prescribed by the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1968. Receipts from the sales of unclaimed vehicles amounted to £18. The cost to the Council for removals, storage and disposal amounted to £5.

FOOD HYGIENE

There are 6 general food stores, 7 licensed premises, 3 cafes and 1 private school canteens in the area. 9 food hygiene inspections were made; 4 unsatisfactory conditions were found, all of which were remedied by informal action by the end of the year.

ICE-CREAM

8 premises within the district are licensed to sell ice-cream. All obtain ice-cream pre-packed from manufacturers and store it in modern deep-freeze cabinets until sold. A number of vans from outside the area retail ice-cream. There are no manufacturing premises.

MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no slaughterhouses or poultry processing stations within the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

There are 11 premises within the district registered under the Act. One premises received a general inspection during the year. 25 visits to registered premises were made.

FACTORY INSPECTION

There are 7 registered factories within the area, one of which received a general inspection during the year.

CARAVAN SITES

At the end of the year there were 5 licensed sites, 4 of which were for individual residential caravans and one a night halt for 15 caravans and 15 tents.

PEST CONTROL

A total of 71 properties were visited and inspected during the year to investigate rodent infestation complaints and for survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

PRIVATE BUILDING WORK

A total of 54 plans were submitted for consideration under the Building Regulations 1965.

8 private dwellings were completed during the year.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958

No applications were received under the above Act.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year 11 applications were approved under the Housing act, 1969.

Grants of £3,231 were paid out for six completed schemes.

STANDARD GRANTS

2 applications for standard grants were received during the year and standard grants amounting to £489 were paid out for 4 completed schemes.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

During the year a comprehensive survey of houses within the area was commenced and a total of 123 houses were surveyed.

Within the area there are 9 vacant houses which are subject to Orders or Undertakings which do not permit their occupation. Of the remaining 766 houses it is estimated that 29 are lacking a water closet and 77 are lacking bathroom accommodation.

11 houses surveyed were considered to be unfit for human habitation and Housing Act action was pending at the end of the year.

COUNCIL HOUSING

No new houses or bungalows were built during the year. The Council now owns the following dwellings:-

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Bungalows</u>
. Asenby	6	3
Baldersby	4	6
Baldersby St. James	2	2
Cundall	4	2
Dishforth	22	11
Hutton Conyers	4	6
Marton-le-Moor	8	4
Melmerby	24	5
Rainton	10	8
Wath	14	-
	<u>98</u>	<u>47</u>

Making a total of 145 dwellings.

A decision was made to build 4 bungalows at Dishforth, 2 bungalows at Baldersby and 2 bungalows at Melmerby. Construction had not commenced at the end of the year.

NUISANCES

6 inspections were made in connection with nuisances, 3 nuisances were found, 2 of which were abated by informal action and 1 by statutory action.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector in respect of the year 1971 for the rural district Council of Wath in the County of Yorkshire (North Riding).

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	7	1	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - 0.

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork, - (Sections 110 and 111) - Nil Return.

